

SWATERS ARE OFF!
DAY OF DAYS HERESeason's Strife At Ballyard
Begins With Nationals-
Athletics Contest.

By THOMAS S. RICE.

This is the day we celebrate, the day the fans do congregate—which is a nice start on a poetical piece we haven't enough poetry to finish.

In fact, this is no time for rhyme or reason. It is the time for unreasoning noise, and the gathering of those who love to talk about one with another and to the umpire, for it is known of all men that this is the day of the opening of the major league baseball schedule.

Enough has been written concerning the untimely demise of non-existent grandmothers. Full sufficiently has been told the tale of the solid business man who scathingly rebukes in spirit an absent office force, and meets them en masse at the ball game only to forget his anger in the exaltation bred by a timely burst for three bases. Away with such aged quips and quorks, such fossil remnants of the paleolithic pastime, when the bat was an untripped sapling and the ball was the stuffed skull of a cannibalized foe.

Up Rooters and at 'Em!

Nay, although we smile at the pleasing prospect of our winter of discontent fading into the era of pure bliss, a serious situation confronts us, and the team expects every fan to do his level best to root it into a winning streak or bust a suspender. But, even if in the drear days beyond midsummer we find our ball nine wallowing in the ruck, the sweetly solemn thought will remain that in the spring it looked, like a champion.

Thus it is that all the world and his cousin from the country made up his mind to go this afternoon to one of the eight major league games. Let not the economists protest about waste of time, or the Massachusetts prudish kick on the nakedness of mind which will be exposed as the great and the humble divest themselves of the artificialities of civilization for the nonce to give themselves up to a debauch of enthusiasm. The man who tries to put the pants of sanity on the mind of the true fan will have to use something heavier and harder than a policeman's club as a safety pin.

Hope for Better Days.

But, again we say, enough of generalities and the exposition of the dead weight thing. Consider what manner of occasion the Washington fans have for giving up their coin and dignity at the ball yard this afternoon. A minute examination reveals that there is hope for better days than the home folk have known for so many years. While these hopes are enough to stake a Republican candidate in Texas, they keep alive a legitimate interest in life and cause Old Subscriber to air his views in letters to the Editor. Mingling in on the strife for three days with the Athletics our brave boys may be sent down to defeat, but even in that desperate case, despair not. Bear in mind the noble example of the District Democrats, whose cause is not in reverse, and who temerarily assemble when the vote is not and the political job is but a vanity.

On to the Ball Yard.

As long as the District Democrats are able to sit up and take nourishment, and the statutes and statues of Massachusetts are pantless, the Washington baseball fan should not be cast down, but stick by the ship, for he knoweth the worst has not yet come.

So, on to the ball yard, without fear and without reproach. No matter if we are last on the Fourth of July we can't be lower than fifth today, even if we cannot be higher than fourth. Should your soul revolt as a favorite sweater swings futilely, turn your eyes toward the box near first base where Sunny Jim Sherman ought to be. Your subconscious self may see his haunting smile, whereupon you cheer, for the trust so far cannot charge you anything for burning with zeal.

When those teams come marching grandly across the battlefield, as with all the pomp and circumstance of glorious war, indulge not in thoughtless jest, nor pass the periscope upon the leader of the big brass band, for many fond hearts are aching at the thought of the dead march Big Ed Walsh's band may whistle over the plate later in the season, or the sobbing sigh of the battle-attendant atmosphere of the National League season there, a tribute he well deserves. Wherefore, Charley Snyder will have to shake hands with himself in lieu of Uncle Nick and Charley's annual recital of how he nearly caught a ball off the top of the Monument with one less auditor this opening day.

Ben Minor has already seen to the ice water in the press box, and Jim Saffel shaved several days ago in anticipation of the beginning of his first season as a baseball telegrapher.

Moans Arising, Too.

Indulge in such legitimate applause as you choose, for that will tend to drown the moans of those who wanted to buy box seats but found that a large proportion had been grabbed by speculators who did not get as much for them as they thought they were going to get. The appearance of Manager James McAleer on the coaching line directing the running of his henchmen is worth a punctuation of personal applause in the general hubbalooboo, for James will make a noise like a baby-hoo, and it won't be for his pinkie, but for the young hero he sends speeding to second is exterminated. James is one of the best wishers we have. If he wishes the team we fear the fans will make him wish himself back in private life, for fans recite not of reasons, but only of results.

Angels could do no more than James has done to bring the Washington team to a winning point. Besides, did he not also have the advantage of personally-conducted inspection tours to Norfolk and President Tom Noyes, Vice President Eddie Walsh, Secretary Harry Rapley, Judge Gould and other dispensers of advice. Aye, that he did, and no man could come into contact with that bunch of high-thinkers without being exalted. Uncle Nick Young, a member, will be among the missing, because he will be in Philadelphia tossing out the first ball for the opening of the National League season there, a tribute he well deserves. Wherefore, Charley Snyder will have to shake hands with himself in lieu of Uncle Nick and Charley's annual recital of how he nearly caught a ball off the top of the Monument with one less auditor this opening day.

President Noyes to Speak.

President Noyes is billed to deliver a few heartening words to the boys as they assemble on the bench, and he is some heartener, too. The suffragettes being busy conventioning down town he will be able to get by with his few remarks without an interrogation concerning his position in regard to the fearful fate of females as long as men have any rights at all.

Walter Johnson pitching and Charley

WASHINGTON BASEBALL TEAM AT OPENING OF 1910.



Standing, left to right—Bob Groom, pitcher; Norman Elberfeld, third base; Doc Reising, pitcher; Joe Hovlik, pitcher; George McBride, shortstop; Bob Unglaub, first base; Tom Crooks, first base; Jack Leivelt, left field. Joe Quirk, trainer.
Seated on bench—Charley Street, catcher; Dolly Gray, pitcher; Herman Schaefer, second base; "Dixie" Walker, pitcher; Clyde Milan, center field; Walter Johnson, pitcher.
On ground—Doc Gessler, right field; Bill Rapp, catcher; Wade Kilfiter, utility; Wid Conroy, utility; Jack Hardy, catcher, and Manager James McAleer.

GAMES TODAY.

AMERICAN LEAGUE.
Philadelphia at Washington.
Boston at New York.
Cleveland at Detroit.
St. Louis at Chicago.

NATIONAL LEAGUE.
Brooklyn at Philadelphia.
New York at Boston.
Pittsburgh at St. Louis.
Chicago at Cincinnati.

and Hahn or Burrows should be able to look after that end of the game. Freddy Payne and Kruger will have to shoulder the catching responsibilities until Billy Sullivan recovers.

Browns Are Unsettled.

ST. LOUIS, April 14.—The Browns are not in the best shape to open the season. Manager Jack O'Connor has done a great deal of experimenting this spring with the result that his aggregation appears a bit unsettled. Bobby Wallace will be seen at third, Hartzell at short, and Bill Abstein at first. Truesdale will undoubtedly give way to Griggs at second.

O'Connor is in a quandary over his outfield. Ray Demmitt, secured from New York, has fallen below expectations. Danny Hoffman and Schweitzer have traveled at a good clip and have their garden jobs circled. "Red" Fisher, from Omaha, or Dode Criss will fit into the outfield until Demmitt hits his stride. Jimmie Stephens is the only veteran catcher. Kilfiter promises well, but looks light. Allen is far too inexperienced.

The pitching staff is far from right. Bill Graham, the southpaw, seems about the only member fit for real work. Bailey, Powell, and Pelly do not appear at their best. Lake is slow in coming around. Rube Waddell is as usual, an enigma so far as condition is concerned.

Shifts at Cleveland.

CLEVELAND, Ohio, April 14.—"Deacon Jim" McGuire's policy with the Naps seems to be to play it safe both ways. He is not injecting so much new blood into his outfit as many rival managers, but he is doing a lot of shifting of scenery. So far these changes appear very wise. Larry Lajole, relieved of the managerial burden, has developed wonderful skill as a first baseman, while Terry Turner is ably filling the big fellow's shoes at second. Turner's arm is able to stand the strain of a short throw.

Tigers Are Intact.

DETROIT, Mich., April 14.—As in the past two years, Hughie Jennings will stand pat on his line-up. He thinks that the team that won a third straight flag and hustled the Pirates in the world's series good enough to set out for a fourth pennant. Matty McIntyre has been hammering the nail so hard all

spring that there is a possibility of his replacing Davy Jones in left field. There is no chance of Jones getting away. He will be retained for utility. If, indeed, Jones does not beat McIntyre to the regular berth.

Jennings will carry a couple of extra infielders besides Charlie O'Leary. These are Lathers and Simmons. Charlie Schmidt will have to hustle to keep with the champions. Stange is the first choice of the backstoppers, and Casey looks even better than Schmidt. The veteran pitchers, Mullin, Donovan, Summers, Willett, Killian, and Works, will be held. Pernoll and Browning, recruit heavies, are almost sure to be retained. Pernoll is the only southpaw besides Killian, who has not been at his best the past couple of seasons.

THE NATIONAL LEAGUE.

Pittsburgh Confident.

PITTSBURGH, Pa., April 14.—Pittsburgh will be disappointed if the world's champion Pirates do not use St. Louis as the first stepping stone to a second consecutive pennant. With the exception of third base, the club that will face the Cardinals in St. Louis is the same that won the championship last year and humbled Detroit in the world's series. Byrne, the only southpaw, was not with the club all year.

Eud Sharpe, the Newark first baseman, has been chosen to replace Bill Abstein. He will have to fight hard to keep the job from Flynn.

Cubs Are Ready.

CHICAGO, April 14.—Manager Frank Chance is confident that today his Great Cub machine will set out on the road

to another pennant. The Peerless Leader is practically standing pat on his line-up. The infield will be the same as last year and so will the outfield. If King returns, the catching department should be the strongest in the league. The pitching department is impaired by the illness of Ed Reulbach, who will not be able to pitch in harness for a month at least. Still, the big fellow was of little use to the Cubs until the middle of June last year.

Miner Brown, Orvie Overall, Jack Pfeister, and Kroh are veteran twirlers who will be able to stand the brunt until Reulbach recovers. Chance has also some promising youngsters. He is well provided with utility men for every department.

Brooklyn the Same.

NEW YORK, April 14.—Brooklyn will start out after the National League coronation at Philadelphia this afternoon with practically the same team that finished in the ruck last year.

Brooklyn went South with one of the heaviest brigades of candidates of all the major league clubs. Few of these have displaced the old men. Two exceptions are found in Daubert and Wheat. Daubert at first base has proved the sensation of the infant's work this spring. Zach Wheat in the outfield appears a tower of strength.

Phillies' Pitchers Strong.

PHILADELPHIA, April 14.—Manager Doolan has paid most attention this year to the development of battery material. He has twelve pitchers and three catchers besides himself. The infield and outfield will line up exactly as last year.

Walsh, of South Bend, and Mecherly, fresh from the lots, will act as utility infielders for the present. Castle, Wolcove, and Delinger have all given promise as outfielders and will be carried on the minimum roster limit goes into effect. Moroney, Scanlon, Brennan, Humphreys, Shettler, and McBride are the young stars. The veterans are Moore, McGuillan, Moren, Sparks, Foxen and Ewing.

Giants in Form.

NEW YORK, April 14.—The Giants have shown excellent form for so early in the season, and Manager McGraw looks to them to be well up in the pennant race at the end of the season. The veteran pitching staff is as good as ever, and several promising youngsters have been added to it to strengthen the outfield Becker, of Bos-

league caliber, are now being deeded out. Before going to Boston yesterday Manager McGraw released six men, but it is probable that there is a string to all of them, which will be pulled back to New York if any of them shows sufficient ability. Pitcher Kather, First Baseman Spencer, and Outfielder Shaw were sent to the Toronto Club, which is managed by McGraw's old pal, Joe Kelly. Catcher Curtis and Outfielder Kommer go to Montreal, and Indiana Williams will go to New Bedford to learn more about the paleface game.

Cincinnati Primed.

CINCINNATI, Ohio, April 14.—The Reds will open the season here with Chicago in better shape than any team that has represented Cincinnati in many years. Clarke Griffith has a fast, scrappy bunch of youngsters who have been developed within the past couple of years. The treasure of Larry McLean may affect the effectiveness of the pitching for a while, as Catcher Clarke, who will open the campaign, is somewhat slow as yet in getting the ball away. This weakness is more than counteracted by hitting ability and cleverness on the bases.

Paskert, in right field, has shown little hitting power thus far. The infield, made up of Hoblitzell, Egan, Downey, and Lobert, seems well balanced. Hoblitzell is a good hitter, not hitting up to form. Mitchell in center and Leach in left have been simply burning up the outfield.

Lake at Boston.

BOSTON, April 14.—Fred Lake believes that his Doves will be able to crawl out of the cellar this year. In fact he thinks that the top of the second division is not too much to expect. He has striven to install speed and ginger into the Hub outfit, after the manner of the rival Red Sox, whom Lake led last year.

Herzog, at third base, is expected to greatly strengthen the infield. This with Martel, an untried first baseman, is very problematic. Shean at second, is a stirring player and works well with Sweeney at short. Lake believes that Moran, Beck and Collins, with Lese in reserve.

St. Louis Wakened.

ST. LOUIS, Mo., April 14.—The Cardinals will be handicapped at the start of the season for want of a real third baseman. Mowrey, who is destined for the bag, has not fully recovered his wounds. Jap Barbeau will hold down the job to begin with. He appears too light for the position. He is not showing the splendor this spring that marked his debut with Pittsburgh a year ago. Konecny, Huggins, and Hunsawit, the other three infielders, are working smoothly in every way.

O'Hara is slated for utility outfield work. Ellis, Oakes, and Evans will be the regular garden. Bresnahan and Phelps will do the catching. Willis, Corriden, Lush and Salie are of seasoned pitchers, who appear to be in good trim. Bachman, Harmon, Reiger, and Johnson, all youngsters, will be retained for a time at least.

PHILBIN RESIGNS
AS YALE CAPTAIN

Injuries Make It Impossible For
Player to Lead
Team.

NEW HAVEN, Conn., April 14.—Capt. Stevens Philbin, of the Yale baseball nine, today announced his resignation, declaring that on account of an injury to his ankle received several weeks ago, he was unable for him to play ball for some time.

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